

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2018  
7:00 P.M. Lee Safety Complex, 20 George Bennett Road**

**APPROVED JULY 10, 2018**

representatives present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall (Candia), Cynthia Kelsey (Deerfield), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Sharon Meeker, Kitty Miller, Preston Samuel (Lee), Cris Blackstone, Jerry Martin (Newmarket), Ann Scholz (Northwood), Carolyn Matthews (Raymond)

staff present: Suzanne Petersen

guests: Ken Grossman, Kyle Pimental, John Wallace

Meeting began at 7:00.

**summary of motions passed:**

**Joe Foley made a motion to provide funding up to \$5000 for the grant proposal for the Barrington Conservation Action Plan and Natural Resource Assessment Update pending approval from the National Park Service. Cris Blackstone seconded. Motion passed with 5 yes votes from Wild and Scenic town representatives, 1 no vote, and 1 abstention.**

**After soliciting volunteers to replace Preston Samuel as treasurer, Al Hall offered to assume the role. There were no objections.**

**approval of minutes from May 10, 2018:**

Al Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Carolyn Matthews seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**financial report:**

Checking account activity, year-to-date budget, land protection account, and book sales were reviewed. Everything was in order.

**grant request and discussion regarding Barrington Conservation Action Plan and Natural Resource Assessment Update:**

The town's natural resource inventory was created in 2001 and updated in 2008. Much has changed in the interim: significant acreage has been added as conserved land, the NH Wildlife Action Plan has been updated, and a revision of the 10-year master plan is scheduled for 2019. The strategic plan is to create co-occurrence maps to identify areas to target

for conservation, climate change resiliency, wildlife corridors, protection of water resources, and improvement or development of recreational trails.

The total budget is approximately \$7000. The town is requesting \$5000 from LRAC and the conservation commission has pledged \$2000. Some outreach to the community is planned, but more intensive outreach would add to the expenses. The mapping layers to be created by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission will be easily transferable to other towns at no extra cost to Barrington or LRAC. Deliverables to Barrington include maps, shape files, and recommendations that can be used for the next 10 years.

The proposal addresses several goals stated in the *2013 Lamprey Rivers Management Plan*:

1. Protect lands that support the ecological health and recreational uses of the Lamprey and its surrounding landscape
  - a. Continue to support research on the resources of the Lamprey rivers and their corridors to identify additional key lands to protect. This includes inventories of rare wildlife and plants, important agricultural soils, sensitive or otherwise important habitats, and recreation and cultural assets. Other topics to study include how climate change could impact river flow dynamics or the degree to which wildlife can connect with the critical resources they need while identifying the barriers that prevent these animals from reaching these resources.
2. Continue to work with landowners and municipalities to foster interest and action in permanent conservation of lands associated with the rivers
3. Improve and increase appropriate, non-motorized opportunities for public enjoyment along and in the Lamprey River and its designated tributaries (Little, North, North Branch, Pawtuckaway, and Piscassic rivers).
  - a. Expand and enhance plans for recreation and public enjoyment activities that include the entire Lamprey River and its five designated tributaries.
4. Work with towns and landowners to expand existing wildlife habitat inventories and conservation plans for the Lamprey River watershed area.
  - a. Protect headwater streams and beaver dams.
  - b. Seek out and conserve land that increases the degree of connectedness for aquatic organism and wildlife passage within the watershed.

Key comments/concerns:

- The budget currently does not have a line item for this request.

- This project is outside the Wild and Scenic area and constitutes a small fraction of the watershed. NPS guidance or permission will be needed.
- As the majority funder in this project, LRAC will need to get high visibility.
- The application supports several goals of the 2013 Rivers Management Plan, including creating inventories of natural resources, protecting wildlife corridors and habitat , permanently conserving land, and expanding opportunities for non-motorized recreation beyond the Wild and Scenic towns.
- This might be a great opportunity to create a watershed-wide co-occurrence map and do outreach with the communities.

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new treasurer needed:

**After soliciting volunteers to replace Preston Samuel as treasurer, Al Hall offered to assume the role. There were no objections.**

land protection update:

The workgroup met in late May.

- One existing project was again delayed when the landowner missed an important deadline for filing an application.
- SELT has identified 2 new potential projects on the Lamprey River. The landowners are interested in putting the land into conservation.

outreach, recreation, and history:

See meeting notes at end as attachment.

project review:

Raymond, Gemini Valve:

FYI only. Property owner plans to increase parking lot. All work is outside the protected shoreland. No state permits appear to be needed. Letter to property owner thanked him for contacting us, but the town seems to have this under control.

Lee, wetlands, replacement of two culverts on Thompson Mill Road:

Natural Heritage report shows high rare turtle presence. Plans have been drafted to eliminate plastic piping, correct a perched outlet, and expand width of culvert to reduce water velocity. No concerns noted.

Newmarket, Schoppmeyer Park seasonal dock:

No concerns. LRAC interests in and contributions to the park were noted, as well as NHDES cooperation to accommodate the cross-inlet dock.

water quality:

The long-term analysis phase 2 has been completed. The workgroup members are pleased with the final product. The abstract needs minor tweaks and then it can be placed on the website.

wildlife:

The group has selected seven sites where ultrasonic acoustic recorders will be deployed to assess bat communities along the rivers. Normandeau Associates will conduct the survey in accordance to a memorandum of agreement that will be executed. Given the full budget of \$5000, up to ten sites can be surveyed. Additional sites will be suggested if possible. Each site will have two recorders for two nights. Recordings will be reviewed by software and then human verified.

grants:

NHCF grant update: Data from the survey trip between Rte. 87 and Wadleigh Falls have been compiled. A few new trees are now blocking passage, but a few older blockages have been broken. Several attempts to get an update regarding when work will begin await a response.

LRWA update:

- Most efforts are currently on water quality testing for the summer. Several towns are without a designated volunteer testing team to perform the sampling every other week from June through September. Several LRAC representatives offered to help.
- A meeting was held with NHDES to review testing parameters. The process had been started earlier, but it was way-laid.
- A new executive director is still needed.

town updates:

- Raymond: The eco-trail continues to be improved and a sign at the entrance will be installed.
- Newmarket: The Macallen Dam public hearing went well with no concerns aired. Town council voted to approve the recommended actions to include reinforcing the abutments, increasing the height of the wall on the west side, and installing automated flood gates. Vote did not include pocket park at this time, but NHDES has required general improvements to the lot. NHDES has approved all options. NHF&GD must sign off before the town manager can sign the contract with the construction company, not sooner than July. Town will have to approve the bond to pay for engineering and construction. Preston suggested a three sided pole with info about different views of the park instead of a regular kiosk or diagonal panels.

#### summer meetings:

- Independence Day will cause some changes to the normal meeting schedule in July:
  - Wildlife will meet on Wednesday, July 11 at 9:00 at the office.
  - Outreach, recreation, and history will meet on July 11 at 10:00 at the office.
  - Project review will meet prior to the LRAC meeting on July 10 at 6:00 or 6:30 depending on how much work comes in.
- Tracie Sales from the NH Rivers and Lakes Management Program will attend the July 10 meeting to meet new representatives and answer questions. Representatives requested a legislative update and information on eliminating the exemptions to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Other topics are welcome.
- August 14 meeting will be cancelled. Enjoy an evening off.

#### Moonlight Brook follow-up:

Last month's discussion to pursue a watershed restoration grant was premature. Confirmed past contamination with *E. coli* bacteria and subsequent enforcement by EPA occurred several years ago and no current data are available. "Evidence" generally understood to be solid was, in fact, nebulous and largely anecdotal. It was suggested, and the group agreed, that a more suitable project would be to get a grant to pursue testing for *E. coli*.

#### other grant possibilities to pursue:

Given the funding that was provided to NHF&GD to create turtle nesting areas away from Route 108 and issues with a development in Epping on an active turtle nesting site, a recommendation was made that LRAC prepare materials for a grant to study the effectiveness of created turtle nesting areas should a suitable opportunity arise.

#### adjournment:

Preston Samuel made a motion to adjourn. Dick Lord seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

#### **Outreach, Recreation, & History Workgroup Meeting Notes June 6, 2018**

##### trail camera deployment:

The camera originally deployed at the Rte. 87 wildlife underpass has been removed and installed at Dimond Hill. This site will capture images of paddlers on the lower reach of the canoe passage enhancement project.

##### Small Grants:

- Funding for up to \$10,000 is available for new projects.
- \$5000 has been ear-marked to Epping for the Rte. 87 bridge lot (Tilton Conservation Area) enhancements. There were questions about what exactly

was approved for potential or actual work and limitations on the kiosk. Epping has not submitted a final grant application to date, but it should be completed soon.

- Almost \$5000 has been awarded to Newmarket Rec for the Hammock to 3k. Newmarket is training staff for the kayak training session. Capsize class date has not been announced yet. Outreach specialist will attend 3 or 4 classes to provide outreach on nature and history.

#### Summary of Events in May:

- Herring Aid: Well attended, adult lamprey got a lot of attention.
- Nottingham Earth Day:
  - Weather was iffy, but attendance seemed strong. LRAC had usual display table plus a separate activity table for kids inside gym. Activities included aquatic insect and horseshoe crab molts and Lamprey River Mystery word scramble.
- Newbie Tour:  
Two new representatives were introduced to the Raymond Eco-trail, Mary Blair Park, Telly's development, Rte. 87 bridge park, Lee canoe access, Wadleigh Falls, Wiswall Falls, Packers Falls, Piscassic Park, and Schoppmeyer Park.

#### Events Planned for Summer:

- Lee family paddle, mid-July, with Seven Rivers. Estimated cost \$90 for 1 guide and maybe a bit more if kayaks are rented.
- Epping Library family river walk and nature activities, July 27
- Nottingham Library nature activities, August 8
- Splash and Dash, August 25
- Eco-paddle, September 1. Estimated costs were discussed, probably around \$430 for 3 guides, subsidies on kayak rental, and rentals for 3 presenters.

#### Park Project Updates:

- Schoppmeyer Park: Project review group will review wetlands permit application for the kayak dock tomorrow evening. Entrance has had some nice work with 2 memorial benches and a short path. One bench has been installed near the water. Rec. Dept. plans to install a kayak rack. Two small panels are being planned: 1 about Chris Schoppmeyer, 1 about access to the river.
- Thompson Forest: Trees have been planted, kiosk frame is installed and awaits content.
- Rte. 87 bridge area: The kiosk panel will be replaced, with most of the original remaining as is. Brief descriptions of the trail stations will be added, so that walkers will no longer need paper brochures. Dick has requested cost estimates. Epping Cons. Commission might chip in 50:50. Preston would like to meet with Epping DPW to discuss using surplus curbstone for the canoe access.

#### Peter Little Bear reprint:

Lee Historic Commission wants to help with costs. Sharon will continue discussions.